Prices of Betamethasone and its salts

1527. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to the Unstarred Question 2470 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th August, 1989 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of bulk drugs Betamethasone and its formulations were notified on the 12th May, 1981;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the prices could not be notified on account of stay granted by the High Court; and

(c) if so, what are the details of packwise prices which were stayed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) The prices of Bulk Drugs Betacethasone and its salts were notified on 12th May, 1981.

(b) and (c) The prices of formulations based on Bethamethasone bulk drug could not be fixed under the provisions of DPCO, 1979, because of the Court's stay on the prices of bulk drug and its salts mentioned at (a) above.

Drugs and medicines lying in excess in Government medical stores depot, Bombay

1528. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government Medical Stores Depots have been assigned the job of supplying drugs and medicines to hospitals and dispensaries in the different States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these Depots purchase substandard drugs and also purchase excess quantity than required;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that a substantial amount of money is blocked in the purchase of excess drugs;

(e) if so, what is the amount blocked in the purchase of excess drugs lying in the Government Medical Stores Depot, Bombay; and

(f) what are the details of stocks of drugs and medicines held by the Government Medical Stores Depot, Bombay over the value of rupees 2 lakhs as on the 31st December, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) Yes, Sir. One of the main functions of the GMSD's is to procure and supply medicines, surgical equipment and other medical stores required by the Hospitals and dispensaries etc. run by the Central Govt. and State Govts.

(b) All drug items purchased by the Depots are tested in Govt. approved testing labs, and depot's own Lab. before being accepted and are taken on charge only after they have been found to be of standard quality on the basis of test reports. The Depots are required to maintain adequate stocks of certain commonly demanded drugs depending on the Life of the item, its averae|annual expenditure and trend of consumption so as to meet with the regular and emergent demands received from its numerous indentors from time to time.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) The Depot held stock of over Rs. 2 lakhs of four items as on 31-12-89 as per details shown below: